

dishonor the memories of the millions of Armenians who lost their lives to ethnic cleansing.

The April 24th remembrance of the Armenian Genocide is also a reminder of the responsibility of all nations to stop these human tragedies from reoccurring. Today, a genocide is taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. It has resulted in the murders of at least 70,000 innocent civilians, the internal displacement of 1.9 million, and the forced exile of 200,000. The international community must act now before Darfur reaches the scale of the Armenian Genocide.

Massachusetts' Armenian community, much of which I have the honor of representing, is committed to raising awareness of the tragedy that befell Armenians of the Ottoman Empire. Every year, survivors and their descendants participate in commemoration services across the Merrimack Valley to shed light on this dark tragedy. In my hometown of Lowell, the Armenian-American Veterans Honor Guard leads a procession to City Hall for a flag raising ceremony. Through these observances, we will never forget the truth.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY
ANTONA EBO, CIVIL AND HUMAN
RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Mary Antona Ebo, a Missourian who was recently celebrated by the Library of Congress in the "Voices of Civil Rights" exhibit for her inspirational service to our nation. She is one of the "Sisters of Selma," a group of Catholic nuns who risked their lives to promote civil rights.

Sister Ebo's role in civil rights history centered around the brutal "Bloody Sunday," beatings that took place at the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. On March 7, 1965, law enforcement officials used horses, clubs and gas to turn back the voting rights marchers as they began their 50 mile march to the state capital at Montgomery. Three days later, in response to a request by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sister Ebo went to Selma with a group of religious leaders from St. Louis. There she spoke out against the violence and urged minorities in Alabama to pursue their right to vote. In recalling her role in the historic events in Alabama, Sister Ebo said recently that she saw her actions as a call from God to make a difference.

After the civil rights marches ended, Sister Ebo continued her life of service to others. In 1967, she became the first African American woman religious professional to head a hospital. She was named administrator of St. Clare Hospital and Health Services in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Today she is a treasured member of the St. Louis community where she serves as pastoral associate at St. Nicholas Catholic Church.

Recently, Sister Ebo recalled her days in the civil rights movement. She told a newspaper reporter: "We did that then, in responding to the need of the moment, but there are still needs that need to be addressed by us as women religious. We need to be speaking out,

speaking up and saying 'No, we will not participate in those kinds of activities, which oppress a part of our people, whether black, white or polka-dot.' "

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Sister Mary Antona Ebo before the U.S. House of Representatives for her many lifetime achievements. She has been a source of spirit and strength for countless Americans. She is among my heroes and I am proud to salute her for her many lasting contributions to our community and to this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT
MINEHARDT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Minehardt, a distinguished educator at Shrewsbury Borough School, on his retirement after forty years of dedicated service to educating up to three generations of local families.

Robert Minehardt has become a vital part of the Shrewsbury community as he has held nearly every leadership position available to a teacher. Since beginning his career in 1965, he has taught fifth and sixth grades, as a general education teacher and then as a science teacher. Mr. Minehardt has also served as vice-principal for more than 10 years, and also, for a short period as the acting superintendent. He has been the Shrewsbury's Title I director, summer school director, the T&E director, the teacher-in-charge, and the assistant to the superintendent. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Minehardt was also active for several years as a coach to the boy's basketball team, supervisor to intramural sports, and coordinator for the CPR program with Shrewsbury's local first aid squad.

Inside the classroom, Mr. Minehardt had a passion for science concentrated in the areas of oceanography and space exploration. Most notably, his interest led him to advocate for the development of the schools' science program. He organized trips to the beaches of Sandy Hook, NJ and formed the in-school science club program.

As a resident of Shrewsbury since 1968, Robert Minehardt attended high school at Red Bank Regional High in Little Silver, NJ. He then went on to achieve his undergraduate degree at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ and continued his graduate education at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Mr. Minehardt returned to Shrewsbury to raise his family including his two sons, Adam and Todd. Both boys attended Shrewsbury schools and were even taught by their father. Currently, Robert Minehardt and his wife, Maggie Minehardt, live in Fair Haven, NJ, where he volunteers as a fire fighter.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 12th district of New Jersey, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Minehardt on his retirement, and we wish him the best in his move to Florida.

IN HONOR OF THE 2ND
BATTALION, 113TH INFANTRY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2nd Battalion, 113th infantry on their return from Guantanamo Bay. On Thursday, April 21, 2005, family members, commanding officers, local officials, friends and neighbors came together to honor their return with a Welcome Home Ceremony at the Jersey City Armory in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry has a distinguished record dating back to the Revolutionary War. Their nine month long deployment, from June 2004 to April 2005, was part of Operation Enduring Freedom in support of the ongoing global war against terrorism. The battalion was an integral element of Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO). I had the honor of visiting with many of these soldiers in December during a trip to Guantanamo, and I can personally attest to their dedication and commitment to protecting the freedoms we all hold dear as Americans.

I would also like to provide a special mention of the Expert Infantry Badge Recipients: Capt. Jurandir Araujo, Jr; 1st Lt. Curtis R. Boyd; 2nd Lt. Peter B. Hegseth; Staff Sgt. Nicholas L. Forrestal; Staff Sgt. Michael J. Klock; Sgt. John Casiano; Sgt. Julio C. Garcia, Jr.; Sgt. Daniel M. Kim; Sgt. Benjamin G. Ouckama; Sgt. Winston G. Ouckama, Jr.; Sgt. Roque L. Rodriguez, Jr.; Sgt. Daniel E. Torres; Sgt. Carl M.I. Cabanas; Spc. Damian P. Caceres; Sgt. Damien N. Joseph; Spc. Jorge M. Oliveira; Spc. Ernesto D. Rances; and Spc. Anthony Scally.

Brave members of the National Guard, I believe they can no longer be viewed as simply 'weekend warriors,' but as full-time soldiers making sacrifices to defend our freedom. I believe they all deserve to be treated as such.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in appreciation of their service, and in fighting to provide health care for these brave men and women and their families, to reduce the retirement age for guardsmen, and to provide readjustment assistance such as counseling, job training, and family assistance.

THANKING STEVEN A. McNAMARA
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Steven "Steve" McNamara, the Inspector General of the House of Representatives will be retiring at the end of May after a long and distinguished career in service to the United States Government. His exemplary career spans 35 years of service, the last 5 of which have been spent with the House of Representatives. Steve's considerable professional skills and credentials as a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Information Systems Auditor, and Certified Government Financial Manager equipped him for the important role of leading the Office of Inspector General in